INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication **NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION** For Members Only

No. 569 Washington, D. C. September 21, 1935

Corn Crop and Pack Conditions

The following report of the condition of the corn crop and the progress of the pack is based on telegraphic reports of conditions as of Friday, September 20:

MAINE: Maine corn pack practically completed. There was a severe frost about a week ago in some sections of the state, but the pack was too nearly finished to cause much damage. The quality of the pack is reported to be excellent.

NEW YORK: Corn packing continues in full swing in New York state, with some canners reporting only 60 per cent of the crop harvested. Cool weather is preventing normal development of the remaining corn. There is some danger that some of the late corn will be caught by frost.

MARYLAND: Some canners report disappointing yields from their late corn in Maryland. It is estimated that very little more corn will be packed this season.

OHIO-INDIANA: Corn packing in this section is about finished. Yields which were fairly satisfactory early in the year have declined steadily throughout the season. The estimate of average yields for this section will probably range between 60 and 75 per cent of normal.

ILLINOIS: The packing of late sweet corn in central Illinois is about finished. During the last week there was enough corn for only about one day's operation. Canners state that their probable pack will be somewhat smaller than earlier estimates.

MINNESOTA: Corn pack in Minnesota is completed, with some canners reporting a pack from 75 to 85 per cent of their early estimate.

IOWA AND NEBRASKA: The corn pack in Iowa and Nebraska is practically completed. A few factories are still running but yields of late corn are reported to be very low, due to damage. Weather conditions very favorable and some very late plantings may come through with satisfactory yields, providing frost can be avoided. For Iowa and Nebraska as a whole, the late corn has yielded low in both tons per acre and on a cut-off basis.

The Facts in the Boston Case

On August 31st Boston newspapers carried stories attributing the death of two women and the serious illness of their mother to food

poisoning. Some of the papers stated that physicians ascribed the deaths to botulism. All of the papers told of the serving of canned grapefruit juice, which the mother refused to drink after taking a taste and remarking that it tasted like gasoline.

Most of the papers announced on September 5th that the medical examiner, after an autopsy, had found the deaths to be due to methyl alcohol that had been mixed with the grapefruit juice.

The foregoing facts are given in the INFORMATION LETTER because of inquiries coming from canners who have read or heard indirectly of the case. As always happens when food poisoning stories—however erroneous they prove to be—are published, rumors and exaggerations fly around fast. It is utterly impossible for a later and correct statement of facts to undo the damage.

In this case the grapefruit juice—as well as other foods brought into the picture by the newspaper statements attempting to describe botulism—have been given a clean bill of health.

Death of J. O. Holt

Canners throughout the country will learn with sincere regret of the death on September 17th of J. O. Holt, secretary and manager of the Eugene Fruit Growers Association. Through his service at various times as a member of the Association's Board of Directors, as chairman of the Fruit and other Sections, and as a member of various committees, Mr. Holt had acquired a wide acquaintance outside his own state of Oregon, where he was long a prominent figure in the industry. In his death the industry and the Association lose a staunch supporter and a diligent worker.

Personnel of Regional Labor Offices

The personnel of its twenty-one regional offices was made public by the National Labor Relations Board on September 19th. With some changes, the cities selected for field agencies are those where offices were established by the former National Labor Relations Board. Under provisions of the Wagner-Connery Act, both the Washington and the field staffs of the former Board were transferred to the new Board.

The regional director and the regional attorney are designated as agents of the Board, with power to prosecute inquiries, investigate employee representation (including the taking of secret ballots), and to gather evidence. Information on alleged unfair labor practices, concerning local employers, will ordinarily be investigated by the director in that region. He may either dismiss the charge, if his investigation finds it groundless, or he may issue a complaint in the name of the Board.

At hearings on complaints the regional attorney will represent the Board. Reviews of the local cases may be carried to Washington.

The Board recently issued a brief digest of the regulations it has adopted for hearings. Copies of the full regulations, it announces, will soon be available.

The regional offices, with the director and attorney attached to each, follow:

1. Maine; New Hampshire; Vermont; Massachusetts; Rhode Island; Windham, New London, Tolland, Hartford and Middlesex counties in Connecticut. Office: 460 Federal Building, Boston, Mass. Director, M. Joseph McCartin; Attorney, Malcolm Halliday.

2. Litchfield, New Haven and Fairfield counties in Connecticut; Clinton, Essex, Washington, Warren, Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, Bronx, New York, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties in New York State; Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Morris, Essex, Hudson, Union, Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon counties in New Jersey. Office, 45 Broadway, New York City, N. Y. Director, Mrs. E. M. Herrick; Attorney, David Moscovitz.

3. New York State, except for those counties included in the Second Region. Office, 223 White Building, Buffalo, N. Y. Director, Rev. John P. Boland; Attorney, Daniel B. Shortal.

4. Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland and Cape May counties in New Jersey; Newcastle County in Delaware; all of Pennsylvania lying east of the eastern borders of Potter, Clinton, Centre, Mifflin, Huntingdon and Franklin counties. Office, 1432 Bankers Securities Building, Philadelphia, Pa. Director, Stanley W. Root; Attorney, Gerhard Van Arkel.

5. Kent and Sussex counties in Delaware; Maryland; Virginia; Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Mineral, Hampshire, Grant, Hardy and Pendleton counties in West Virginia. Office, U. S. Custom House, Baltimore, Md. Director, Bennett F. Schauffler; Attorney, Gerhard Van Arkel.

6. All of Pennsylvania lying west of the eastern borders of Potter, Clinton, Centre, Mifflin, Huntingdon and Franklin counties; Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Taylor, Doddridge, Preston, Lewis, Barbour, Tucker, Upshur, Randolph, Webster and Pocahontas counties in West Virginia. Office, 1030 Post Office Building, Pittsburgh, Pa. Director, Clinton S. Golden; Attorney, Robert B. Watts.

7. Michigan, exclusive of Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Iron, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, Delta, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa and Mackinac counties. Office, 2102 National Bank Building, Detroit, Mich. Director, Frank H. Bowen; Attorney, Garnet L. Patterson.

8. Ohio, north of the southern borders of Darke, Miami, Champaign, Union, Delaware, Licking, Muskingum, Guernsey and Belmont counties. Office, 915 Guarantee Title Building, Cleveland, Ohio. Director, Ralph A. Lind; Attorney, Nathan Witt.

9. West Virginia, west of the western borders of Wetzel, Doddridge, Lewis and Webster counties and southwest of the southern and western borders of Pocahontas County; Ohio, south of the southern borders of Darke, Miami, Champaign, Union, Delaware, Licking, Muskingum, Guernsey and Belmont counties; Kentucky, east of the western borders of Hardin, Hart, Barren and Monroe counties. Office, 704 Mercantile Library Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Director, Stanley B. Mathewson; Attorney, Laurence A. Knapp.

10. North Carolina; South Carolina; Tennessee; Georgia; Alabama, north of the northern borders of Choctaw, Marengo, Dallas, Lowndes, Montgomery, Macon

and Russell counties. Office, 523 Citizens & Southern Bank Building, Atlanta, Ga. Director, Frank E. Coffee; Attorney, Thomas I. Emerson.

11. Indiana, except for Lake, Porter, La Porte, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Lagrange, Noble, Steuben and De Kalb counties; Kentucky, west of the western borders of Hardin, Hart, Barren and Monroe counties. Office, 245 Federal Building, Indianapolis, Ind. Director, Robert H. Cowdrill; Attorney, Fred G. Krivonos.

12. Wisconsin, except for Douglas County; Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Iron, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, Delta, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa and Mackinac counties in Michigan. Office, 519 Brumder Building, Milwaukee, Wis. Director, Nathaniel S. Clark; Attorney, Charles A. Wood.

13. Lake, Porter, La Porte, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Lagrange, Noble, Steuben and De Kalb counties in Indiana; Illinois, north of the northern borders of Edgar, Coles, Shelby, Christian, Montgomery, Macoupin, Greene, Scott, Brown and Adams counties; Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Jones, Cedar, Muscatine, Louisa, Lee, Henry, Washington, Johnson, Des Moines and Linn counties in Iowa. Office, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. Director, P. A. Donoghue; Attorney, Charles A. Wood.

14. Illinois, south of the northern borders of Edgar, Coles, Shelby, Christian, Montgomery, Macoupin, Greene, Scott, Brown and Adams counties; Missouri, east of the western borders of Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Dent, Shannon and Oregon counties. Office, 411 Security Building, St. Louis, Mo. Director, Harold T. Garvey; Attorney, David Shaw.

15. Louisiana; Arkansas; Mississippi; Florida; Alabama, south of the northern borders of Choctaw, Marengo, Dallas, Lowndes, Montgomery, Macon and Russell counties; Jefferson, Orange, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, Refugio, Aransas, San Patricio, Nueces, Kleberg, Kenedy, Willacy and Cameron counties in Texas. Office, 401 Louisiana Building, New Orleans, La. Director, Charles H. Logan.

16. New Mexico; Oklahoma; Texas, except for Jefferson, Orange, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, Refugio, Aransas, San Patricio, Nueces, Kleberg, Kenedy, Willacy and Cameron counties. Office, 405 Federal Court Building, Fort Worth, Texas. Director, Edwin A. Elliott.

17. Missouri, west of the western borders of Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Dent, Shannon and Oregon counties; Iowa, west of the western borders of Lee, Henry, Washington, Johnson and Linn counties and south of the northern borders of Benton, Tama, Marshall, Story, Boone, Greene, Carroll, Crawford and Monona counties; Kansas; Nebraska; Colorado. Office, 932 Scarritt Building, Kansas City, Mo. Director, George O. Pratt; Attorney, I. S. Dorfman.

18. Minnesota; Iowa, north of the southern borders of Dubuque, Delaware, Buchanan, Blackhawk, Grundy, Hardin, Hamilton, Webster, Calhoun, Sac, Ida and Woodbury counties; North Dakota; South Dakota; Wyoming; Montana, east of the eastern borders of Hill, Chouteau, Fergus, Golden Valley, Stillwater and Carbon counties. Office, 404 Roanoke Building, Minneapolis, Minn. Director, Robert M. Gates.

19. Washington; Oregon; Idaho; Montana, west of the eastern borders of Hill, Chouteau, Fergus, Golden Valley, Stillwater and Carbon counties; Alaska. Office, 423 Federal Office Building, Seattle, Wash. Director, Charles W. Hope; Attorney, Philip G. Phillips.

20. Utah; Nevada; California, north of the southern borders of Monterey, Kings, Tulare and Inyo counties. Office, 1095 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. Director, R. Gordon Wagenet; Attorney, Philip G. Phillips.

21. Arizona; California, south of the southern borders of Monterey, Kings, Tulare and Inyo counties. Office, 205 Federal Building, Los Angeles, Calif. Director, Towne J. Nylander; Attorney, Philip G. Phillips.

Weather Conditions

District	Week ended Sept. 10, 1935		Week ended Sept. 17, 1935		Week ended Sept. 18, 1934	
	Temp.	*Rain*	*Temp.*	*Rain*	*Temp.*	*Rain*
Maine	62	2.2	57	1.6	61	2.3
Western New York	61	1.0	56	.5	64	2.3
Tri-States	68	7.0	68	.0	71	4.3
South Central Ohio	65	1.0	67	.0	69	.2
Central Indiana	64	.7	71	.0	68	1.3
Central Illinois	62	.7	72	.0	65	1.1
Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin	59	.1	67	.2	63	1.5
Southern Minnesota	56	.7	67	.0	60	.7
Northern Colorado	60	1.1	71	.0	66	.0
Northern Utah	71	.3	74	.0	68	.0
Northwestern Washington	68	.0	61	2.7	58	1.0
Southeastern Washington	76	.0	68	.1	64	.0

New Home Economics Division Publication

The Association has mailed to its members a 16-page pamphlet, "Community Meals," which was prepared by the Home Economics Division in response to numerous requests it has received for menus and recipes suitable for luncheons and dinners served at church, community and club meetings. The Home Economics Division has arranged for its distribution to many interested organizations through the use of mailing lists and appropriate notices in various publications.

Brookings Institution Reports on Dairying and Livestock Industries

The Brookings Institution this week issued reports of its studies of the dairying and livestock industries under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. They are part of a series of studies of the effect of the A.A.A. programs on principal crops, of which reports on wheat and tobacco already have been made public.

The dairying study, made by Dr. John D. Black, Professor of Economics of Harvard University, found that little tangible result has been achieved in either production or marketing control, outside the reduction in numbers of excess cattle brought about by the cattle purchase program and the buying of diseased animals. Achievements rather must be measured more largely in terms of progress toward understanding of the problem than of its actual solution, the report says.

The livestock study, by D. A. FitzGerald, formerly of Iowa State College, reached the conclusion that actual price rises in the industry have been chiefly the result of drought. In the absence of such abnormal weather conditions, however, the effect of the A.A.A. program on prices would have been felt more noticeably, the report says. Financial benefits to producers, the report states, have come, or will come, from the

pockets of taxpayers in general, including the producers themselves; but it is pointed out that the burden upon taxpayers is attributable to the drought measures rather than to the planned reduction program.

In both reports, attention is called to the danger of pressure by political and group interests to bring about artificially high price levels which might eventually react adversely to the producers themselves.

Italian Tomato Canning Prospects

The Italian tomato crop this year ripened some days later than usual as a result of unfavorable weather conditions at the beginning of the season, according to the American consul at Naples. The quantity is about the same as last year and the quality is good: color and taste are satisfactory and the fruit normal in size.

Prices are high. For San Marzano, the best quality, 30 to 35 lire per quintal of 220.4 pounds at the field are being paid, as compared with 10 to 12 lire at the corresponding period last year. Fiaschelle are priced at 25 to 28 lire, as against 9.50 to 10 lire in 1934. For the common grades the prices are 20 to 22 lire as compared with 6 lire last year. It appears therefore that this year's prices are about three times higher than those for 1934. The prospects are for a still further increase, and canners are of the opinion that the best quality (San Marzano) will reach 50 lire per quintal. (The exchange value of the lire averaged 8.56 cents in 1934; present value is about 8.2 cents.)

Canneries commenced operations at the beginning of August. They are running at only about two-thirds maximum capacity, since the foreign demand at the moment is not lively enough to justify full schedule operations.

Canners express the opinion that this season's output of peeled tomatoes will be somewhat less than that of the preceding year. The tomato paste and double concentrate production will somewhat exceed that of 1934, because of an expected active demand from both the usual domestic markets and the military authorities. The carry-over of tomato products from last year is almost exhausted.

Quotations for the new tomato products c. i. f. New York are as follows: Canned peeled tomatoes, 3-lb. cans, 35 lire per case of 24 cans; 1½-lb. cans, 40 lire per case of 48 cans; double concentrate and tomato paste, 300 lire per quintal.

Consumers' Research, Inc., Disagrees with Itself

Recently there was reproduced in the INFORMATION LETTER an editorial from the New York *Herald Tribune* regarding a strike involving the staff of Consumers' Research, Inc. Now comes what *Adver-*

tising and Selling calls the aftermath—a split in the organization, as to which *Advertising and Selling* comments:

"Aftermath of the astounding labor crisis which last week struck Consumers' Research, Inc., is of manifold interest to advertising. Whether the organization can survive as a radical spur is problematical; President Schlink's stand in the union strike will doubtless have a harmful effect on his group's subscriber-circle of liberals. Secretary Kallet's breakaway also is seen by many as a crippling blow."

Hawaiian Pineapple Juice Being Sold in Malaya

An interesting recent development in the provision trade at Singapore is the appearance of good qualities of Hawaiian canned pineapple juice, which is now being marketed with considerable success, according to the American trade commissioner.

Comment has been made by Singapore authorities on the fact that although Malaya is a large producer of canned pineapples, they have not as yet tinned the juice; nor at the present time are any of the by-products of pineapple factories being utilized here. The only pineapple product, other than tinned fruit, is pineapple brandy made at Ipoh.

Fruit Juice Industry in the Netherlands

In a recent report on the fruit-growing industry in the Netherlands, the American consul at Rotterdam states that the Dutch production of apple, pear, and other unfermented fruit juices, which was taken up in 1932, is continuing to expand. At present seven plants are engaged in the manufacture of these non-alcoholic beverages. It is estimated that in 1934 the industry consumed 800 tons of domestic fruit. The demand for fresh fruit by the juice manufacturers had a stimulating influence on prices. Prices of some varieties rose sometimes to such an extent that an unfavorable influence on the development of the fruit juice industry was feared.

The production of grape juice has been impeded by the excise which is levied on this non-alcoholic beverage. Other fruit juices are not subject to excise taxes. However, a bill was recently laid before Parliament proposing to waive the excise on grape juice.

Convention Dates

Association of New York State Canners, December 11 and 12, Buffalo.
Association of Pacific Fisheries, November 6, 7 and 8, Del Monte, Calif.
Eastern Shore of Virginia Packers Association, January 2, 1936, Cape Charles.
Florida Grapefruit Canners Association, Annual Fall Meeting, October 8, Tampa.
Indiana Canners Association, November 21 and 22, Indianapolis.
Ohio Canners Association, December 10 and 11, place to be announced later.
Wisconsin Canners Association, November 4, 5 and 6, Milwaukee.

Crawfish Canning in Southwest Africa

The canning of crawfish is centered in Luderitz, where there are three factories, according to the American consul at Capetown. So long as the French market was open these plants were kept busy and exported annually more than 2,000,000 pounds, valued in excess of 100,000 pounds sterling. However, the quota restrictions imposed by France reduced the trade by 50 per cent in 1934 and it will be even less in 1935.

The allotment for Southwest Africa this year is only 14,000 cases and the Luderitz factories produced enough in two months' time to fill it completely. They have been closed since the end of April.

South African canners who control the factories in Luderitz are trying to develop markets outside of France, but they have met with little success thus far.

Australian Canned Fruits Exports

According to a report from the American trade commissioner at Sydney furnishing figures to the beginning of August, Australia's exports of canned fruits for the 1935 season will be about 1,000,000 cases, compared with 663,961 cases in 1934.

The total amount of bounty payable on the 1935 season's export pack, however, will not be more than 43,000 pounds, compared with 74,000 pounds paid out in 1934 when the rate was 1 shilling per dozen 30-oz. cans. The bounty rates for the 1935 season's exports are: Apricots, 5 pence per dozen 30-oz. cans; peaches, 6½ pence; pears, 3 pence. The rates per dozen 16-oz. cans are half the foregoing amounts.

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